



Coastal America Annual Conference **April 23-27, 2006**

Riverview Plaza Hotel/Convention Center
Mobile, Alabama

Preliminary Program

Sunday, April 23

- 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm Registration (Hotel Lobby)
- 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm **Informal Reception with CWRP Partners**
 (Tiffany Rose Bar, Hotel)

Monday, April 24

- 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Optional Field Trips
- 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm Registration (Convention Center - Room 106)
- 11:00 am – 4:00 pm **CWRP Program Management Meeting and Luncheon**
 (RIT Chairs/NIT members invited to attend)
- 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm **CWRP Briefing for Corporate Leaders**
- 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm **Opening Reception**
 Welcoming Remarks
 Virginia Tippie, Director, Coastal America
- “State of the Gulf: Issues and Opportunities”**
 (Report on Gulf Alliance and March 2006 Summit)
 Bryon Griffith, Director, EPA Gulf of Mexico Program

Tuesday, April 25

- 7:30 am – 8:30 am Continental Breakfast
- 7:30 am – 4:30 pm Registration (Convention Center - Room 106)

8:00 am – 8:15 am	<u>Welcome and Introductions</u>
8:15 am – 9:00 am	<u>State of the Partnership: National Update and Q&A</u> Virginia Tippie, Director, Coastal America
9:00 am – Noon	<u>Strategic Assessment Working Session</u> Moderators: Bryon Griffith, Co-Chair, GMRIT/EPA and Paul Michel, Co-Chair, SWRIT/EPA Strategic Assessment Update Bryon Griffith, Strategic Assessment Project Manager Regional Principals Meetings Updates Break Discussion – Development of an Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership & Support • Regional Plans & Projects • State & NGO Involvement • Measuring Success
Noon – 1:30 pm	<u>Luncheon: “Meeting the Partnership Challenge”</u> Benjamin Grumbles, Assistant Administrator for Water, U.S. EPA and Principals Group Lead for Strategic Assessment (invited)
1:30 pm – 4:30 pm	<u>Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership Working Session</u> Moderators: Bill Hubbard, Chair, NERIT/Army and Mario DelVicario Co-Chair, MARIT/EPA CWRP Update: Cindy Angelelli, Director EHS, Duke Energy and CWRP Chair; and Patmarie Nedelka, CWRP Coordinator, Coastal America Break Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment and Retention • Establishing State Chapters • Delivering Projects • Measuring Success
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm	<u>Mobile Bay Field Trip & Dinner Cruise</u> The Mobile Bay area is a nexus for issues in the Gulf region. This field trip will highlight some of the challenges and opportunities facing the region. Officials will describe state and local efforts to preserve and enhance this important bay.

“Mobile Bay: Issues and Opportunities”

Dave Yeager, Director, Mobile Bay National Estuary Program

Wednesday, April 26

7:30 am – 8:30 am Continental Breakfast

8:00 am – 11:00 am **Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers Working Session**

Moderators: Bo Crum, Chair, SERIT/EPA and
Pat Rutten, Co-Chair, SWRIT/NOAA

CELC Update:

JerryENZler, Director, National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium
Marguerite Duffy, CELC Coordinator, Coastal America

Break

Discussion

- Expanding the CELC Network
- Ocean Literacy Initiative
- AmeriCorps Initiative
- Measuring Success

11:00 am – 5:00 pm **Coastal Recovery Field Trip and Working Lunch**

The field trip will highlight renewal and recovery efforts along the Mississippi and Alabama Gulf Coast. The tour will include a visit to hurricane-damaged areas, wetland & dune restoration project sites and the Dauphin Island CELC AmeriCorps project. State and local officials will discuss lessons learned and coastal restoration plans.

5:00 p.m. – 7:30 pm **Evening Reception – Dauphin Island Estuarium**

Tour the Dauphin Island Sea Lab Estuarium, nature walk and exhibits while enjoying the bounty of the Gulf Region.

“The Dauphin Island CELC: Increasing Ocean Awareness”

George Crozier, Director, Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium

Thursday, April 27

7:30 am – 8:30 am Continental Breakfast

8:00 am – 10:00 am **Innovative Readiness Training Working Session**

Moderators: Bob Bosenberg, Co-Chair, GMRIT/Army and
John Wright Co-Chair, MARIT/Army

IRT Update:

Colonel Gillespie, Director, IRT Program, OSD/RA, DoD (invited);
Will Nuckols, Acting IRT Coordinator, Coastal America

Discussion

- The IRT Process & Annual Training
- A Strategic & Systematic Regional Approach
- Identifying Appropriate Projects
- Measuring Success

Break

10:30 am – 12:30 pm **Principals Panel: “Looking to the Future - National Priorities”**

Moderators: Craig Vogt, NIT EPA Member and
Dallas Miner, FWS NIT Member

Kameran Onley, Assistant Deputy Secretary, Interior
Tim Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Commerce
Alex Beehler, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (invited)
Merlyn Carlson, Deputy Undersecretary for Natural Resources, USDA (invited)

Discussion

12:30 pm – 2:30 pm **Luncheon: Working Session Reports, Wrap-Up and Next Steps**

2:30 pm **Meeting Adjourns – Optional Field Trips**